

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

It is respectfully requested that this after-final amendment and reply be considered and entered, since it is believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-16 and 20 are currently being canceled (claim 2 was previously canceled).

Claims 17, 18 and 19 are being amended.

No claims are being added.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 17, 18 and 19 are now pending in this application. Please note that Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional or continuation applications to prosecute the claims canceled in this application.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 17 and 19. Due to the amendments made to claims 17 and 19 to place each of those claims in independent form, and due to the amendment made to claim 18 so that it now depends from claim 17, claims 17, 18 and 19 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 17 was objected to for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Claim 17 has been amended to overcome this objection.

In the Office Action, claims 5 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Due to the cancellation of claims 5 and 20, this rejection is now moot.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-4 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Katayama; claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art as applied to claim 3 and further in view of Kajiyama et al. or Taniguichi et al; and claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art as applied to claim 1 and further in view of the acknowledged prior art. Due to the cancellation of claims 1, 3-5, 16 and 20, and due to the amendment made to claim 18 so that it now depends from allowable claim 17, these rejections are now moot.

Accordingly, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

December 29, 2003  
Date

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